

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Commission,) Application No. 911-021/
on its own motion, seeking to) PI-120
investigate issues related to)
intertandem trunking across the) ORDER OPENING DOCKET AND
State of Nebraska for use in the) SEEKING COMMENTS
provision of wireless enhanced)
911 service.)
) Entered: July 11, 2006

BY THE COMMISSION:

The Commission opens the present docket on its own motion in order to investigate issues related to intertandem trunking across the State of Nebraska for use in provision of wireless enhanced 911 service.

In an order issued in docket 911-007 on October 28, 2003, the Commission approved funding for costs associated with providing intertandem trunking throughout Nebraska. Intertandem trunking allows for the transfer of Phase I and Phase II enhanced wireless 911 calls and associated data among different public safety answering points (PSAPs).

The need to transfer these calls is necessary and can arise under a variety of circumstances. For example, due to the mobile nature of wireless phones, a call to 911 is sometimes routed to the wrong PSAP. A call from a wireless phone could transmit through a wireless carrier's tower and be routed to a PSAP that is not within the jurisdiction of the PSAP to the caller.

Intertandem trunking allows the call-back number, cell site information and, data indicating caller location, to be transferred to another PSAP. Transfer of such Phase I and Phase II information is crucial in locating the person making the 911 call. Currently, trunking connects Qwest's tandems in Norfolk, Nebraska; Grand Island, Nebraska; Sioux City, Iowa; and Des Moines, Iowa, as well as Alltel's Lincoln tandem. The next stage will inter-connect Sprint's Scottsbluff tandem to the network.

Recently, the Commission became aware of a situation involving intertandem trunking. In the process of setting up its equipment to utilize the trunking, Buffalo County discovered that it was unable to complete transfers to PSAPs located on a different selective router. As a result of this investigation, the Commission would like to review and clarify issues related to intertandem trunking and its related costs to ensure that the

system is functioning according to expectations. In order to complete its investigation, the Commission hereby requires Qwest, Alltel, and Sprint to supplement the record on the subjects listed below. Any other interested parties may also file comments.

1. The service provided by intertandem trunking to the enhanced wireless 911 system, including but not limited to, the purpose of intertandem trunking, the limitations of the service it provides, and the intended users of the system. Furthermore, explain any other uses for the system other than for 911 purposes.
2. How the costs of providing intertandem trunking are determined and why determination of these costs differ from traditional tariff pricing. Please include a breakdown of the costs by service and equipment and the expected useful life of any equipment purchased.
3. What the Companies understand to be the terms of the service provided, including but not limited to, how long the service will be provided based upon payments already made by the Fund; who is responsible for testing and the scope of testing required; who is responsible for maintenance and replacement; and who is responsible for training PSAP personnel regarding use of the intertandem trunking.
4. What testing was conducted to ensure that the system was working, the dates that the system was completed, the dates testing was performed and who was involved in the testing. Furthermore, please outline the testing standards utilized.
5. Do you currently provide similar services and equipment in other states for 911 purposes? If so, please note to whom the service is provided, how the system is similar to or different from that used in Nebraska, the costs associated with providing that service, and any funding available for the provision of that service.
6. Whether the equipment and network used for Nebraska intertandem trunking and paid for by the Fund, are or can be used by non-wireless 911 services or by other jurisdictions (e.g. other states).

Qwest, Alltel, and Sprint and any other interested parties shall file comments on the above-listed questions with the Commission **on or before August 11, 2006 at 5:00 p.m.** All

parties filing comments should file one original and five paper copies and email one electronic copy to angela.melton@psc.ne.gov.

O R D E R

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED by the Nebraska Public Service Commission that the above-captioned docket be, and it is hereby, opened to investigate issues related to intertandem trunking across the State of Nebraska for use in the provision of wireless enhanced 911 service.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Qwest, Alltel, and Sprint and other interested parties shall file comments on the above-listed questions with the Commission **on or before August 11, 2006 at 5:00 p.m.** All parties filing comments should file one original and five paper copies and email one electronic copy to angela.melton@psc.ne.gov.

MADE AND ENTERED at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 11th day of July, 2006.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS CONCURRING:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director